

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 42
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.4
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Christmas Island Biodiversity Plan
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 21 October 2015
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

1. Considering the Government has missed its preferred deadline of having the Threatened Species Scientific Committee consider a new draft Biodiversity Plan for Christmas Island in early-2015, and it is now late 2015, is the new plan on track to be considered by the Committee in November and by the Minister in December? If not, what is the new late timeframe?
2. Have Departmental staff met longer than the "briefly", as was noted in QON107, with key Christmas Island stakeholders since May this year?
3. Have the amendments to the draft plan that the Department identified in QON 108 been made to the plan yet? Which amendments have been made and which have not?

Answer:

1. It is intended the revised draft plan will be considered by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee at the March 2016 meeting. The Department is continuing to give consideration to matters raised during public consultation. This has delayed finalisation of the recovery plan.
2. Departmental staff met with Phosphate Resources Limited representatives in September 2015 to, amongst other matters, discuss their concerns with the draft recovery plan. Departmental staff have also met with the Administrator of the Indian Ocean Territories to discuss the plan.
3. A revised plan has not yet been completed. Once changes to the draft plan have been made, further targeted stakeholder discussions on the revised plan will be arranged.